

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ASSURING MIDDLE EAST PEACE

HON. JACOB K. JAVITS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Thursday, September 26, 1968

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, only 15 months after the conclusion of the 6-day war of June 1967, through Soviet deliveries of new stores of sophisticated modern arms, Russian "advisers," and economic and diplomatic support, Arab militarism has risen from the ashes of defeat to renew its warfare against Israel through guerrilla incursions and border attacks. The Arabs seek to erode efforts for peace by diplomatic maneuverings and threats of another round in the Arab-Israeli war.

With the growing Soviet position of strength in the Middle East and the increased Arab bellicosity, it would seem logical, that the United States would bolster our friends in the area. We are not doing this in the case of Israel even though both political parties in their platforms have planks pledging arms aid to Israel to preserve its freedom and to maintain the balance of power in the Middle East. And both Houses of Congress have similarly gone on record.

The administration must no longer hesitate to discharge the expressed will of both political parties and of both Houses of the Congress—and the will of the American people—but should immediately commence the arrangements to permit Israel to purchase needed supersonic Phantom jets from the United States.

I wish to append an article from the September 13 issue of a leading New York weekly, the Jewish Press, which eloquently states the case for this aid. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

THE U.S. DELAY COULD BE COSTLY

The United States has delayed the shipments of Phantom Jets to Israel far too long. As of this moment Soviet ships are making ominous military moves in the Mediterranean and a constant surveillance of the U.S. fleet is underway by Soviet TU-16 jet bombers, with "Egyptian" markings. These jets carry radar and submarine detection devices. Russia and the Arab nations know exactly how many ships and submarines we have in the Mediterranean, and where they are.

It is ironic that Russia has placed these supersonic jets at the Arabs disposal when Russia needs every one of these planes for defensive warfare!

U.S. intelligence claims there are only 4,000 Russian personnel in Syria, Egypt and Algeria. However, with the Russian "advisors" who are piloting these planes, our sources claim the figure comes closer to 10,000 men.

If Russia should give the word tomorrow to the Arabs to attack—it would be impossible for Israel to withstand the onslaught of

the TU-16 jets. Not only that, the U.S. forces in the Mediterranean would be completely overpowered and destroyed. The Russians have charted our every move in the Mediterranean for the past three months. It would be a simple task to pre-set their missile control computer in Egypt and create all kinds of havoc in a matter of minutes.

However, if the U.S. would send Phantom jets to Israel, we would stand a fighting chance. Once the gauntlet is dropped it will be too late!

The U.S. must realize the immediate danger to this country as well as Israel and ship the Jets immediately—if only for our own safety!

ISRAEL'S URGENT NEED FOR PHANTOM JETS

HON. O. C. FISHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1968

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed, as are many Americans, about the continued unrest in the Middle East.

To my mind the state of affairs in that part of the world could be greatly assisted if this country made up its mind, and promptly, to provide Israel with the arms that it needs for its own defense. We cannot expect the Arab world to lessen its pressures or to change its warlike intentions other than through a realization that another conflict with Israel would have as devastating an effect as the last one. The Arab world, like its sponsor the Soviet Union, understands only one deterrent factor, force of arms.

Israel is today a beleaguered state surrounded by enemies. It has no desire for territorial expansion and it wants nothing more than to be left in peace. But peace for Israel is impossible in the light of the insistent pressures, terrorist activities and open threats of conflict which constantly face it from the Arab nations.

Since the Israel-Arab conflict in 1967, the Soviet Union has furnished the Arabs at least 450 tanks and 250 aircraft. The Arabs today have roughly twice the number of aircraft than the Israelis have. Although Israel has made appropriate deposit of the outstanding balance for the Mirage-V jet fighters ordered from France, France has so far been unwilling to supply these aircraft to Israel.

Premier Eshkol during his conversations with President Johnson requested 50 F-4 Phantom jets. The official position of the administration is that "the President agreed to keep Israel's military defense capability under active and sympathetic examination and review in the light of all relevant factors, including the shipment of military equipment by others to the area."

That "sympathetic examination" is still undoubtedly going on, but no F-4's are being sold to Israel. The ostensible

reason for this appears to be that the administration hopes to reach an understanding with the Soviet Union over an arms balance in the Middle East. I, too, believe in a limitation of arms in the Middle East, but not a unilateral limitation by which our friends are deprived of the means to defend themselves while the Arab forces are generously supplied with arms by the Soviet Union.

And in any event I must point out that any understanding with the Soviet Union relating to an arms balance in the Middle East must now be viewed in the light of the recent actions of the Soviet Union in Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Speaker, both on the basis of national interest, as such is furthered by any step toward maintaining world peace, as well as on the basis of moral considerations which our country traditionally has viewed as a proper basis for its foreign relations, dictate that the administration's "sympathetic examination" be translated into prompt delivery of F-4 Phantom jets and such other armaments as are required by Israel at the very earliest date.

Our friends need our help, and our interests dictate that we give this help.

By following this course, we will actually be helping to preserve the peace and prevent war in the Middle East.

"CONGRESSIONAL REFORM"—ARTICLE INSERTED IN EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS B. CURTIS

HON. CARL T. CURTIS

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday, September 27, 1968

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of Thursday, September 26, 1968, I notice on page E8244 that I was listed as the author of an insertion entitled "Congressional Reform." I regret that I am not the author of such a fine informational thesis, and in all good conscience I must make known the simple fact that an error in makeup at the Government Printing Office listed me instead of the distinguished gentleman from Missouri, Representative THOMAS B. CURTIS.

I know these things happen and that the necessary changes are made routinely, but I could not let this occasion pass without citing the inadvertence and, at the same time, giving credit where it is due. In requesting that the correction be made for the permanent bound Record, I take the opportunity to congratulate my friend, Representative Tom Curtis, for developing this informative material, and I commend it to everyone for its educational value.

CUBAN EXILES IN FLORIDA

HON. DANTE B. FASCELL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1968

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, during all of its history, the United States has opened its doors and its heart to those who flee despotism, privation, and repression. The landing each day in Miami of the freedom airlift from Cuba is but an updated version of the arrival of the *Mayflower* in 1620. As with the *Mayflower*, the airlift brings with it a people searching for new horizons, seeking the recapture of lost liberties and subsequently content that their quest has been fulfilled.

With minor exceptions, those who come to our shores under these conditions become productive and exemplary citizens. However, there are some who, through a misguided fervor to restore in their country the liberties they find in America, engage in wanton acts of violence which cause irreparable harm to the country which gave them refuge.

Typical of these extremists is a small but determined group in the Miami area whose most recent activities include the sniping of vessels in the Miami port, extortion, and the terrorist bombing of business places. Needless to say, the people of the Miami area are horrified by their acts of terrorism.

A particularly apt résumé of the activities of the extremists and of the effects of their actions appeared in the September 23, 1968, issue of the Miami News: CUBAN EXILES LIVING WITH "REIGN OF TERROR"

(By Terry Johnson King)

By the time you read this, some Cuban exile terrorist may have planted another bomb somewhere.

Perhaps it will have gone off.

If so, as sure as Castro makes little red statements, there will be a "secret" hand-delivered (nobody ever knows by whom) press release. It will be signed Ernesto, Antonio, or some Latin-flavored name, and it will claim credit for the violence.

The reason it is hand-delivered is because these terrorists know a federal statute when they see one—they're not about to mis-use the mails.

If the bomb doesn't go off, and many don't, you may not even hear about it. For every attempted bombing that is investigated (36 so far this year in Dade County attributable to exile sources) a number go unreported for fear of unfavorable publicity.

It's like fighting a libel suit, to report an unexploded bomb; it only calls attention to a bomb-worthy situation.

Miami's Cubans are living with a reign of terror that, so far, has been largely confined to their own neighborhoods and businesses. Almost daily now, incidents are reported locally as anti-Castro factions drown their sorrows and vent their frustrations in dynamite and C-4 plastic explosives.

It has been an escalating war. It started with smoke bombs and tear gas being tossed into festive gatherings among Cubans, set off by malcontents who said the exiles had no business having parties while their country was in the hands of Communists.

From there it grew. Dynamite was tossed into stores that sent drugs to Cuba—they were "trading with the enemy" when they sent badly-needed supplies of penicillin and antibiotics to the aged and infirm in that country.

Then it was C-4 plastic bombs—a sophisti-

cated weapon, and too sophisticated, it turned out, for the clumsy terrorists. It was a long time before they could figure out how to make the things go off.

And finally into such advanced warfare as sniping of a Polish ship in Miami's harbor last week; and the increase in bombings of commercial establishments which do not "co-operate" with the terrorists.

Miami Police Chief Walter Headley says much of the bombing is done for extortion. Merchants are asked to contribute to the counter-revolutionary causes. If they don't, they quickly learn the consequences. Cuban sources say extortion has nothing to do with it—it is simply a "philosophical" method of keeping the community in line, supposedly so it can fight the tyranny of Castro.

Last week, four reporters-in-exile were blindfolded and driven aimlessly about the city, and finally taken to a hooded character who said he was "Ernesto"—the leader of Poder Cubano (which translates as Cuban Power but, confusingly, it is not the same group which calls itself Cuban Power).

The cloak-and-dagger encounter was reported straight-facedly, including the statement that Dr. Orlando Bosch, one of the noisiest of the militant anti-Communists here, would assume leadership of Poder Cubano.

It could have been for real (some of the newsmen have their doubts)—or it could have been somebody else's cunning plot. For Bosch, who knows full well there's a bounty on the head of any member of Poder Cubano who is identified, has disappeared in the wake of the unwelcome publicity. All par for the course.

There are some 54 exile groups. The most aggressive are a small minority. They are controlled and financed by the wealthy who lost great holdings when Castro took over nine years ago, but managed to fall back on resources they'd been bundling out of Cuba in the years before.

Some of the groups consist of men who fought with Fidel until the surface was scratched and his communism came out. Others are outright supporters of former dictator Fulgencio Batista, hopeful of putting his policies, through a puppet, back in operation.

Election year speeches tend to encourage them. Ed Gurney, Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate from Florida, said last week, "we should train, equip and aid responsible Cuban freedom fighters in their efforts to overthrow the Castro government."

The key word in the statement may be "responsible," but none of the militants are likely to admit they are irresponsible—and responsible people are not likely to be militants.

Also fanning the flames of the near civil war that brews in Cuban neighborhoods are the extreme right-wing exile publications. Chief of these is a newspaper, "Patria," which is commonly supposed to exist on money from Batista.

In addition there are bulletins, magazines, other papers, newsletters—published here, in California, New York and Mexico—which defy the terroristic strikes against non-cooperators, either here or elsewhere.

Aside from Poder Cubano and Cuban Power, the most militant groups are: White Hand, directly by a man who calls himself Michelta; the 7th of December Movement, directed by a man who signs himself Antonio, and the Secret Anti-Communist Army.

The MIRR—Insurreccional Movement of Revolutionary Recovery—is generally presumed to be the front organization for Poder Cubano. And another group, not heard of too often, has entered the age of specialization: the Garcia-Cornillot Group makes a practice of bombing just foreign consulates of countries that trade with Cuba.

All the terrorists have the same modus operandi. A bomb is set, and if it goes off successful, a press release is issued claiming credit.

Those from Poder Cubano are signed "Ernesto." The signature is wavery, obviously left-handed. The fact that the signatures vary bears out the theory that the group consists of 10 people, each of whom calls himself Ernesto and is entitled to act independently of the others whenever he can gather his own cadre.

White Hand and Cuban Power peevishly charge that Poder Cubano swipes their headlines by claiming responsibility for ALL acts of violence, some of which the other struggling groups have committed.

With all the various organizations, methods and philosophy, there is one unified aim of the militants: to return the Cuban exiles to a "free" Cuba, no matter what means must be taken. This, despite the fact that recent studies indicate the vast majority would stay in Miami even if Fidel toppled.

They are settled here, most have more physical comforts than in their lower-middle class pre-Castro life. Rather than provoke unpopularity in the exile community, however, they continue to profess Cuban super-patriotism.

The identities of many of the terrorists in this new-style Cuban Mafia are known, but as one bombed-out businessman said, "Why should I ask for a second dose? I do not wish to discuss the matter further." He termed it "an unfortunate accident."

His associates reckon the next time he is asked to support the Cubans' favorite charity—anti-Castroism—he will do so more readily.

Meanwhile, the Miami-based consuls of countries that trade with Cuba tremble daily as they start their cars (a bomb was wired to the Mexican counsel's auto), open their offices (the Spanish National Office of Tourism has had three bombs planted), or go into their homes (a bomb exploded in the garage of the British counsel's Coral Gables residence.)

Hardware stores do a brisk trade in one-way mirrors and door-peepers. Fear lies over the Cuban community like a catalfque. Nobody wants to do anything with an unexpected present—it could be a time bomb.

One businessman, a boat-builder, recently called the Hialeah police when a heavy, clumsily-wrapped package arrived from an unknown character in New Jersey—where they had just uncovered a Cuban arsenal. The bomb squad unpacked a propeller being sent back for repair.

The police and the FBI reckon they have not gathered enough legal evidence to convict any of the people they suspect of being terrorists. They wring their hands and exchange bits of information, most of which is obsolete by the time they uncover it.

And meanwhile, the Cuban exiles live in a climate of fear they thought they had escaped when they fled their homeland.

The offenses committed by the terrorists are violations of local laws, but there are also national and international implications. For these reason I have had the staff of the Legal and Monetary Affairs Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations, of which I am chairman, working on this matter.

Various agencies of the Federal Government that are concerned with enforcement of Federal laws involved are within the subcommittee's jurisdiction, including the Justice Department, the Bureau of Customs, and the Coast Guard. In addition, I have recently written to the Attorney General as follows:

SEPTEMBER 23, 1968.

HON. RAMSEY CLARK,
The Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL: Recent terrorist activities in Miami and other parts

September 27, 1968 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

of our nation, perpetrated by a small group of Cuban extremists, are endangering American lives and property.

The vast majority of Cuban exiles have proven to be exemplary guests in our nation. However, this militant minority is violating not only our local laws with attacks on foreign ships and bombings of business places, but also is violating a host of Federal laws.

For these reasons, I seriously urge a prompt and thorough investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration authorities and other agencies involved to bring these criminals to justice.

While I fully support the legitimate efforts of the Cuban exiles to free their homeland, we cannot allow a terrorist minority to jeopardize lives and blatantly violate our laws in the name of patriotism.

Sincerely yours,

DANTE B. FASCELL,
Chairman.

CUTBACKS IN SCHOOL FUNDS

HON. JACOB K. JAVITS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Thursday, September 26, 1968

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, the Labor-HEW appropriation bill, now in conference, contains a number of provisions in disagreement wherein the Senate has increased Federal school aid funds over the amounts in the House bill and, in a number of instances, over the President's budget. The attached editorial from the August 2 Rome Daily Sentinel is indicative of the widespread public support at the community level for needed funds for our schools.

The Nation's children are the Nation's future. And their education assures the future both for them and for our country. I am hopeful that the conference committee, of which I am a member, will have the vision to approve these needed funds. I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOHNSON CUTS ROME SCHOOL AID

Passing almost unnoticed in the President's impromptu press conference the other day was his off-hand reference to the fact that he did not intend to release the more than 90 million dollars Congress had authorized to aid schools in federally-impacted areas.

Rome is such an area because of the added burden placed upon it by the children attending our schools who are related to Griffiss AFB. Failure to release these funds will cause the local system to lose approximately \$250,000 it has budgeted for the coming year.

These funds were allocated by the Congress only after considerable study and thought in both houses and careful consultation with school officials from all over the nation, including a representative from Rome.

Why President Johnson chose to ignore this documented need we may never know. He may have been chastizing the Senate for failing to approve his Supreme Court designations or he may have been disturbed at the inflationary implications of the steel settlement. He can point to the mandate handed him by Congress to save \$6 billion of federal spending.

In any case, the impact on the school budget will be considerable and the necessary cuts to cover the loss of a quarter of a million dollars will be difficult for the school board. If this federal money is to be permanently cut off, the costs will be added to the local tax dollar.

TOWNSEND PROPOSAL EXPANDED TO AID ELDERLY, OTHERS IN NEED

HON. JOHN J. McFALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1968

Mr. McFALL. Mr. Speaker, for the past several Congresses, I have offered legislation proposed by the Townsend Foundation to improve economic conditions of the Nation's elderly.

The late Dr. Francis Townsend accomplished much during his lifetime to focus public attention on this great need. In my judgment, a large share of the credit for eventual development of the present social security program rightly belongs to Dr. Townsend and his dedicated associates.

The gnawing fear of the future felt by millions of Americans a few decades ago now has diminished and the phrase, "over the hill to the poor house," no longer is commonplace.

Most of us will agree, however, that further improvements in our present system of providing security for older Americans and the public assistance programs may be both necessary and desirable.

In the 90th Congress I introduced H.R. 5930, which is somewhat different from the original Townsend bill. In addition to providing monetary benefits to persons 60 and above, based upon minimum wage standards, it also would assist persons who become unemployed due to automation—students, and the disabled.

This measure contains many ideas worthy of exploration and as a matter of public service I feel it important that the proposal be before the Congress in order that its contents receive full consideration in developing new approaches to meet unfilled needs.

On August 22, Mr. John Doyle Elliott, secretary of the Townsend Foundation, appeared before the Democratic platform committee in Chicago. He discussed H.R. 5930 and how its provisions could be made applicable to our present society.

The following is Mr. Elliott's testimony:

From the start, of the social security issue, over thirty-three years ago, it was my conviction only an impoverishing version of social security could ever result from the stingy principles and policies adopted in 1935—and that applying the already obsolete rules of scarcity would cruelly mismanage the abundance even then clearly within our grasp.

Since World War II, virtually every Congress has fulfilled my prophecy by passing ever broader Social Security Amendments, only to face the necessity for still greater ones, every time. The growing problem steadily outran the feeble remedy. History's time's run out for mere steps-in-right-directions.

When he signed the latest, 1967 Amendments, President Johnson created a new commission "to examine any and every plan, however unconventional, which could promise a constructive advance in meeting the income needs of all the American people." A most encouraging and revealing action and announcement.

That Commission, The President's Commission on Income Maintenance Programs, should cornerstone the Institute on Retirement Income, urged by the Senate's Special Committee on Aging—especially in view of their report announcing that they've at last concluded that *lack of income* "is now more than ever the MAJOR PROBLEM" of the elderly (Senate Report No. 1098). And, even more especially, their admonition that the situation will "steadily worsen unless a genuinely comprehensive federal action is fashioned."

THE TEST OF PROPHECY IS FULFILLMENT

Facts: In spite of all our social-security programs and policies (both public and private, combined with all other income people themselves can acquire), those over 65 share less and less, year by year, in up-to-date income and living. Analysis of Census Bureau's annual reports (Series P-60), on income-distribution to persons by age and sex, authentically certifies that truth:

In 1947, persons over 65 had only 34.5% the median income of persons 25 through 64. By 1964, it was down to 31%—by 1965, 30.5%. In 1966, despite the 7½% benefit increase by the 1965 Amendments (and liberalization of government, labor and business plans), it fell to 28.9%—a DROP of over 16%! From 1947 to 1966.

Even had the 1947 ratio improved, say to half the up-to-date, adult level, it would have been a severely punishing failure. But, it dropped over 16%!

In recent years, this decline has accelerated. In 1964, men over 65 had a median income of \$2,037—\$2,904 LESS than men 55 to 64 (women over 65 had \$952—\$958 less than women 55 to 64). In 1965, it was \$2,116—\$3,134 LESS for men \$984—\$1,035 less for women. In 1966, it was \$2,162—\$3,588 LESS for men (\$1,087—\$1,129 less for women).

A final fact completes the picture. The same source shows in 1947 10,641,000 aged 65 and over—in 1966, 17,937,000—increased 68.9%. In comparison, in 1947 we had 72,497,000 and in 1966 85,241,000 aged 25 through 64—increased only 17.6%. Thus, the elderly are increasing four times as rapidly as younger adults. From 1947 to 1959, the ratio was but 3½ to 1; showing it to be a rising one.

In short, steadily greater economic depression for an ever greater part of our adult population—to whose membership virtually all of us are destined—the aged.

I believe nobody can require a more unanswerable picture of failure. Present stingy programs have been better than none; but, imagination can't grasp the utterly excuseless privation and denial amidst abundance endured by American people because of these mean programs, based on the obsolete rules of scarcity. Only to the extent that we wipe out this deflation of human living can we ever beat inflation which is its inevitable counter-effect. Nor can we achieve the just equality the name "America" has always promised—except as we put an end to this bitter inequality.

Therefore, our leadership at last calls for real answers to "the income needs of all the American people." That call not only recognizes the failure of past policies (but for which that call would never come), but also signifies that they do not have "adequate financial mechanism" to implement the prosperity which must move in if poverty is to move out.

I—and those I represent—have known that "mechanism" over all past years of this issue. My personal assignment has been to

E 8328

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks September 27, 1968

preserve it and to develop its application as our country's social security experience (under present programs) unfolded during these past three decades.

Since our responsible national leadership has now withdrawn its commitment to apply programs based on the old principles of scarcity which were adopted in 1935—I now present that "mechanism"—the one, do-the-job plan. First, I hereto attach a completely drafted bill—H.R. 5930, sponsored by Rep. John J. McFall—which completely defines and provides for the rights, purposes, authorities, duties and ways-and-means necessary to end the problems of social security and poverty in this land.

Then, I herein present certain purposes and provisions and deal with certain questions as to this bill's necessity for the prosperity which alone can displace that poverty.

Purpose: To amend Title II of the Social Security Act to provide a national pension for retirement at age 60, disability and certain other conditions. For all persons equally—sufficient to protect even beneficiaries with no resource other than this benefit from poverty.

Beneficiaries: (a) All persons aged 60 and over, or disabled, or female heads (regardless of age) of families having persons under age 18 dependent on them or persons aged 18 to 25 engaged in full-course educational, or vocational training so long as they advance in accordance with accredited standards in schools, or other training supervision approved by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare—subject to \$1 monthly loss of benefits for each full \$2 earned monthly in employment, or self-employment, in excess of \$100 monthly—shall be full and equal, "primary," beneficiaries.

(b) All persons found *physically and mentally competent*, but whose employment has been eliminated by changes in industry and business resulting in employers having no work for which such persons are qualified—subject to \$2 monthly loss of benefits for each full \$3 earned in employment, or self-employment—and subject to such persons (in common with any other disabled beneficiaries) fully cooperating in any programs approved by the Secretary of HEW to qualify them for existing and available employment consistent with their health and abilities shall also be full, "primary" beneficiaries.

(c) All persons under age 18 orphaned, or otherwise deprived of parental support, or dependent on any of the above "primary" beneficiaries—subject to \$1 monthly loss of benefits for each full \$2 earned monthly in employment, or self-employment in excess of \$50—shall be entitled to one-third of the benefit currently being paid to "primary" beneficiaries.

Definition of poverty: Sec. 230(11) of H.R. 5930 (attached) states, "The terms 'poverty' and 'free from poverty' refer to and relate to an individual's having or lacking sufficient money-income to enable him reasonably to command fully healthful diet, respectable clothing and housing, full medical and health insurance and care, normal participation in recreational, social, cultural and public life and affairs; and in no case shall such money-income accruing to an individual over 18 years of age be justly considered to amount to less than the money-income received from a regular employment-rate of 40 hours a week under the prevailing Federal Minimum Wage."

Benefits: In view of the above definition of poverty and the requirement that the benefits of this Act "assure persons having no resource other than their benefits under this title freedom from poverty"—and since the Federal Minimum Wage is \$1.60 an hour—the full, "primary" benefit now would not be less than \$260 a month.

Payment of benefits: In place of present Social Security taxes, there will be a tax of 1% for the first six months under this Act

on the gross money-receipts of all persons and companies (except the first \$250 monthly of personal gross receipts will be exempt). Starting with the seventh and every third month thereafter, the tax rate will rise $\frac{1}{4}\%$, until it reaches $2\frac{1}{4}\%$, as of the 22nd month.

Beginning with the seventh month, after defraying administrative costs monthly from each month's revenue, respectively, the revenue from the first month will be distributed as benefits—the revenue being equally divided by the number of full benefits eligible (taking into account the number of full benefits represented by all the various partial benefits); etc., each succeeding month.

Section 212 of H.R. 5930 provides that these benefits will absorb all benefits under present OASDI programs. Any OASDI benefits temporarily greater than initial benefits under this Act will be paid at full rate by using needed money from the OASDI Trust Funds. Nobody will lose any benefit already earned.

The need and cost of nearly all Public Assistance will automatically be absorbed by benefits under this Act. Public Assistance titles should not be repealed because exceptional circumstances in individual cases and possible catastrophes might find the benefits of this Act temporarily inadequate.

Before turning to the "financial technology" through which such benefits are to be implemented, beneficially to all honest interests, let us note certain obvious truths about these benefits. First, the benefits of this Act will stand the permanently and temporarily unemployed (as distinguished from unemployed who are employable) solidly on a "floor of prosperity" below which they need never live. Present programs' inadequate benefits literally hang people under a "ceiling of poverty"—right in the midst of its misery.

Nobody need more than look at the millions—especially our ever-growing legion of edlerly—who are unemployable, to realize that until we establish this "floor of prosperity" below which all persons encountering unemployability need not live—we won't conquer poverty and its unjust evils, no matter what other successes and glory we achieve. In fact, the greater our other successes and glories, the less justified becomes our continued allowance of poverty in any form!

Second, the benefits herein proposed must be viewed in the light of creating what other proposals and existing programs do not—that prosperity (as defined above) which must replace the poverty which constitutes our problem—and our danger beyond anything any foreign foe may venture.

In this respect, we have so-called "poverty-lines" (as promulgated by the Soc. Sec. Admin.) and "eligibility-criteria" (per war-on-poverty officialdom for calibrating individuals' needs for aid). These standards are not only "ceilings for poverty" under which people are suspended, right in poverty's midst; they're not better than halfway up out of it, to start with! Not, at least, as far as freedom from want is concerned, even though superior to Public Assistance standards, now, in most States.

These "poverty-line" and "eligibility-criteria" standards postulate about \$3,300 a year for a city family of four (parents and 2 children). Less than \$70 a month per person. For a rural family, it's nearly a third less. Why, it costs \$2 a day to board our pet cat when we have to be away—in a cage! Cat and dog pensions for people? War on poverty? The irony is this—these "poverty-line" and "eligibility criteria" standards are the up-to-date "Betterments" being proposed in compliance with the old, obsolete concepts and rules of scarcity on which present policy and programs are based! And they are better than most States' present Public Assistance guides—in many states, extremely better.

On the other hand, effective since the first

of this year, is the new Federal Minimum Wage—product of many, many years of testimony, study and debate. It is Congress' own judgment of the minimum, money-income for an individual worker to keep fit to work—the minimum for which we may conscientiously (and in law) take the time, life of another for our benefit, or profit.

The Minimum Wage is in no way related to whether a person is man, or woman, in city, or country. Old, or young. A single, unattached person; the only breadwinner of a family; or, one of several earning members of a family. It is strictly minimum, as of the individual person, regardless of any other consideration.

It is very close to twice that for a single, unattached, city individual by the "poverty-line" and "eligibility-criteria" standards; nearly thrice that for a country individual. It's nearly all that allotted a city family of four. Nearly half again that accorded a family of four in the country.

These "Poverty-Line" and "Eligibility-Criteria" standards are right down in the poverty pit!

They can never lead to ending poverty. Rather, they will serve to perpetuate it.

Only instituting the floor of prosperity conceived in the benefits provided by the great, national pension of H.R. 5930—the Pay-As-You-Go Social Security and Prosperity Insurance Act—can lead to the end of poverty and make social security a living fact in our country. Without these benefits, poverty will continue.

Therefore, I advocate that the Party of Progress and Justice—the Democratic Party—adopt in 1968 a Platform plank declaring this Party's purpose to be the establishment of that floor of prosperity below which Americans will no longer need to live to the end that freedom from want and the equality among all Americans which has so long evaded us will be achieved.

The retirement test: This is specified above in the descriptions of the various beneficiaries. It is of utmost importance as the provision which inter-relates equitably the unemployables receiving the benefits of this plan and the employed, working population. There must exist a thoroughly defined bridge between the employed and employable and those who are unemployable both in the normal sense (like the aged, the physically and mentally disabled) and in the sense of being wrongfully retired and unemployable—their occupations rendered unworthy of hire by progress and change, for example—or, as yet, not having obtained the education, training, or experience to command existing employment.

In my research and analysis and study, this \$1-for-\$2 ratio between benefits and earnings, this specific "retirement test" was formulated. In 1955 and 1956, constructing bills competently to embody this great-national-pension concept, it was applied. It called for (and H.R. 5930 now so calls) beneficiaries to be allowed to earn \$100 a month (\$50 for dependent children), then lose \$1 for each full \$2, monthly, earned in employment, or self-employment.

Workers and earners—especially since spouses will have exactly the same retirement rights and benefits as workers for money-pay—workers will be able to EASE from full employment into retirement over a significant span of years, without hardship. A worker will be eligible at 60 completely to retire. But, he could well afford, in most cases, to ease up on such activities as overtime and other pressures, say after age 55—or, even, if health, or other interests so advised, after age 50.

With the spouse acquiring the same benefit at 60, most couples could well afford to discount possible earnings in favor of health, for example, in the years prior to retirement.

On the other hand, many workers—their spouse's benefits considered—being averse to retirement, hale and hardy—they need not